

ledge, and a bold and incisive intellect. Mr Darwin was nevertheless remarkably cautious in statement. Many distinctions have been conferred on him within the past few years, including the Prussian order Pour le Mérite, degrees from Leyden and Cambridge, and the membership of the French Academy.

An inquest was held this afternoon at the Government Civil Hospital before the Coroner, H. E. Wodehouse, Esq., and the following gentlemen as Jurors: Messrs E. Piron, W. Parfitt, and E. L. Pereira touching the death of Lam Ayce, an ayah, who died yesterday. Dr. Stockwell said the body of deceased was brought to the Hospital, the having died while being conveyed from the house of Mr Bowdler, with whom she was employed. There were no marks on the body except that one of the front teeth had been knocked out, and he was unable to state the cause of death, but said the body was that of an apparently healthy woman of about 50 years of age. The other evidence given showed that the deceased had been in the act of putting out clothes on a bamboo, for which purpose she had been standing on the parapet of the verandah at the rear of the house and while leaning forward had taken hold of one of the supports of a disused pulley. The support, which was shown to the Jury, owing to the rotten condition in which the parts that joined it to the other pieces of the structure were, had given way and caused her fall. The Jury returned a verdict of accidental death.

It may be remembered that Sir John Pope Hennessy metaphorically shed tears over the sad lack of docking accommodation in this Colony, and that a barge was administered to his wounded spirit by a leading Chinese, who told him that one of the largest docks in the East was about to be constructed by his Chinese friends. A nautical smile, with a touch of pity in it, was about all the notice which the European community here took of this farce enacted by H. E. the Governor before his Legislative Council; and when the smile passed away, there was nothing more left of the scheme and its distinguished "patrons." At that very moment, when Governor Hennessy hugged his crazy of class distinction, His Excellency must have known that the English Admiralty was entering into an arrangement with the Dock Company here for the construction of a large Dock for the accommodation of the largest of H. M.'s ships of war. It is satisfactory to learn that the negotiations for the completion of this enterprise are going on smoothly and well, and that, unless anything intervenes which is at present unforeseen, the work will actually be commenced three or four months hence. The detailed plans have yet to be sanctioned by the Admiralty Director of Works; but this need not necessarily entail a reference to London; while all the conditions and stipulations have been agreed to on both sides. So far as we can learn, the terms are highly favourable to the Company, while the return to the Government will be the manifest benefit of having a dock capable of accommodating any of H. M.'s vessels at almost any time of the tide.

We hear that the iron mines at Kaiping are not to be worked, and that Mr Burnett is going to the Yangtze-Kiang to look for iron there (on Li Hung-chang's property, no doubt).—*Mercury*.

The Shanghai Mercury remarks:—The Telegraph line has been sold, we hear, from Tientsin, to Taotais Shen and Liu Heng Ling for its cost. On the other hand, we hear that it has been leased only, and will be found in an advertisement. There has been a considerable increase; so Soochow the word rate is 20 cents instead of 15, and to Tientsin 30 cents instead of 20.

The Shanghai Courier says:—The Tao-tai of Shanghai, has been promoted to be a Judge of the Province of Kiangsi—a promotion which is regarded by the Official classes as carrying with it more honour than ennoblement. The incoming Tao-tai, Shao-Yu-Liou will fill Li's post here. He accompanied Chung-How to Russia as Secretary of Legation and returned to China last year bearing the treaty negotiated by the Marquis Tseng.

The Englishman publishes the following paragraph regarding the old opium steamer the *Thunder*, Capt. Taylor, which will be of interest to some of our readers:—It will be in the recollection of many old residents of Calcutta, that during the cyclone of 1864 the steamer *Thunder*, which we believe, was bound for Calcutta from the China Market, with specie on board to the amount of Rs. 35,000,000, was never heard of, and was supposed to have been caught in the centre of the cyclone near the Salsburgh and sunk, not a soul living, to tell the tale of the vessel's disappearance. Strange stories were from time to time given currency to the wreck of the vessel having been seen somewhere on the face of the Sunderbund, and there was more than one Sunderbund Bhikari who claimed that he could for a consideration point out the exact spot where the vessel with all her golden cargo lay. But none of the bold adventurers' stories met with credence. A couple of weeks ago, however, a hardy mariner betook him to the Port Commissioners' office, saw the bigwigs there, and, at any rate, so satisfied them of the truth of what he knew, that the Port Commissioners forthwith resolved on sending one of their launches in quest of the lost *Thunder*. We have been informed that this person vouches that he has been on board the missing vessel, and in consideration of recouping a percentage on whatever might be recovered, will point out the spot where it lies. The steamer *Thunder* is now away on her quest, and the result of her voyage will, in due course, be made known.

CORRESPONDENCE.

THE REV. JOSEPH COOKE.
To the Editor of the "China Mail."

Bolton, April 22, 1882.
SIR,—In your issue of the 20th instant there is in the "Correspondence" column a paragraph, relating to the Rev. Joseph Cooke. Your correspondent expects that an explanation of the Lecturer's non-appearance at Union Church on Sunday will be forthcoming from Hongkong. I may tell him that in Hongkong I have been looking—as yet in vain—for an explanation from Mr Cooke. Late on Saturday I received an intimation from Canton that Mr Cooke was to spend the following day in Hongkong, and would lecture in Union Church if he wished it; that he was coming down by the Peking that night, and would, my informant supposed, stay at the Hongkong Hotel. Through late, a note of the lecture was inserted in the *China Mail*. Early in the morning I sent a note to Mr Cooke to the effect, inviting him and his wife to breakfast at the hotel, and to call on me when he was not there. I was not there. I could learn from no one where he was. I expected to find him at the Church before the service, and up to sunset-time I looked for his coming. I can say with your correspondent, it is "with regretful surprise that I now hear of his spending that day, with his wife, on the streets of Hongkong, instead of keeping his engagement. I regard it as extraordinary, to say the least, that Mr Cooke has sent no apology.

JOHN COLVILLE.

SINGING GIRLS.

Hongkong, April 22.
SIR,—Considerable excitement has been caused among a certain class in Hongkong by a notice which has been issued by the Portuguese authorities and posted on the doors of brothels to the effect that any one desiring a woman against her will in one of these places will be liable to heavy punishment. One result of the proclamation, it is said, has been that almost all the brothels have had to be closed owing to the women deserting them. This step of the Portuguese authorities is in the right direction, and it is high time the authorities here were doing something in the same line. It is a well-known fact that in many of the Chinese brothels young girls, from eight to fifteen years of age are kept as singing girls, and are trained in such a way that there can be no fate for them. Two or three cases have been dealt with by the Magistrates, but still more vigorous measures are required to put down this evil. I trust the Registrar General may find it in his power to do something towards remedying the existing state of things.—T. M.

LAW NOTICE.
IN THE SUPREME COURT OF HONGKONG.

Before the Hon. G. Phillips, Chief Justice.

ORIGINAL JURISDICTION, Monday, 24th April, 10.30 a.m.—*Pang Sing U v. Tan Chai*.—Suit No. 2.—Judgment.

Lo Wei Nam v. Chey Pun.—Suit No. 4.—Hearing.

2.20 a.m.—*G. E. Mitchell v. Ng Tow-Sing*.—Suit No. 46.—Hearing.

IN BANKRUPTCY.—In the matter of Choy Sing Nam, bankrupt.—Bankrupt to come up for his last examination.

In the matter of Meijah Burxoo.—Petition to be adjudicated bankrupt.

(Before the Hon. F. Swenden, Puisne Judge.)

CRIMINAL JURISDICTION.—Prisoners to come up for sentence.

Police Intelligence.

(Before H. G. Thomsett, Esq.)

Saturday, April 22.

STREET GAMBLING.

Tan Ashun, coolie, was caught gambling with others yesterday afternoon by a Chinese constable. He was fined \$1, in default of payment three days' imprisonment.

Wong Ahn, coolie, was fined the same amount with the same alternative for having gambled in the Chinese Recreation Ground yesterday.

LARCENIES.

Wong Akau, printer, admitted a charge of stealing one pair of shoes, value 60 cents, belonging to Yeung Ah-ong, stone-cutter, who was sitting in Kennedy Road with his shoes beside him. The printer came in, and while the stone-cutter was looking in another direction, took up the shoes and attempted to make off. The stone-cutter gave chase and caught him. Sentence of three months' imprisonment with hard labour was imposed. There were two previous convictions against him.

Chung Akam, unemployed, was sentenced to one month's imprisonment with hard labour for stealing one jacket, value 30 cents, belonging to a Chinese constable. He was fined \$1, in default of payment three days' imprisonment.

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THE CHINA MAIL.

plaintain shipped him and they had some money.

The defendant was ordered to give personal security in the sum of \$10 to appear if called on.

THIEF OF AN UMBRELLA.

Chung Akong, shopman, and Lo Achi, unemployed, this morning were seen going on board a steamer, by Hang Akang, P. C. No. 195, who knew them both as bad characters. The constable watched them for some time and about an hour after he had first noticed them he saw the first defendant take up an umbrella, which a passenger had placed against the engine room. The first defendant then went to the second, where the Constable seized, getting the assistance of Sergeant Campbell to arrest the first. The pursuor of the first defendant was searched, when an empty bag and two sharp pen-knives were found. The defendants were ordered to enter into a recognizance with two sureties of \$50 each to be of good behaviour for three months, in default to be committed.

ASSAULT WITH AN IRON BAR.

Mak Afuk and Liu Ahn, barbers, were charged with assaulting Leung Lai Li, inmate of brothel, No. 52, with an iron bar on the 21st instant.

The defendant laid the first defendant, who had been taken to Hospital, he having received severe injuries through jumping from one of the windows in an attempt to escape.

The complainant said she was an inmate of No. 52 Licensed Brothel, No. 43 Square Street. Yesterday evening the man in the dock, and the other, went to her house, and received her. She told them she would not have anything to do with them. They then became angry, the first defendant giving her a severe blow on the leg with an iron bar, and the second striking her on the arm. She called for assistance, and the defendants finding they could not gain access by the door ran upstairs.

The case was remanded, on the application of Inspector Lindsay, till the 23rd instant, to allow of the man in the Hospital appearing.

A PROPRIETOR SUMMONED FOR NEGLECTING TO CLEAN A FILTHY DRAIN.

Ho Ahm, residing at No. 3 Elgin Street, was charged by the Colonial Surgeon with neglecting to keep a drain on his property clean, and with allowing it to become a nuisance, and with allowing it to become a nuisance, and with allowing it to become a nuisance.

The case was remanded, on the application of Inspector Lindsay, till the 23rd instant, to allow of the man in the Hospital appearing.

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to go home singing!" See the *Hunter*,

The Examination referred to was one which attracted about 2,000 of the graduates of the province; and was evidently made use of in this clever way to create, if possible, a public feeling in the Viceroys' favor. The Examination is a yearly one, and 200 or 240 of the successful candidates are eligible to compete afterwards twice a month for a large number of exhibitions, varying in value from a few hundreds of cash up to several taels for each examination. It also entitles them to an allowance for defraying the expenses of the great Triennial Examination which happens in the autumn of this year.

The under graduates are examined in the same way in every prefectural city, and the successful among them are open to compete during the year for smaller exhibitions. These are provided either from the public funds or from private subscriptions. The Colleges are all full at present with students being coached for the great Autumnal Examination.—N. C. D. News.

TIEN-SIN.

Our late Commissioner of Customs, G. Doherty, Esq., left this morning for Shanghai. He went to Tientsin in the Viceroys' steamship, and will proceed from there in the *Siu Kiang*, a few days hence.

Assembled at the Customs petty to bid him good-bye, at which time an address was presented, expressing the appreciation felt for him and for the public spirit he has manifested while resident here. Mr. Doherty replied briefly and with much feeling.

A considerable quantity of railroad rolling stock, in the way of trucks, platforms, &c., is now lying on the Bund. This looks like business. But probably it will have to lie idle for a time. For it seems necessary, or it is thought advisable, not to make use of the proposed railroad at the Kai-sang marts, at any rate at present. It is to be hoped that the delay may not be too temporary.

The Censor who memorialised the Throne adversely to the mines, was a Shansi man. He seems to have been prompted to his representations mainly through jealousy and fear lest the proposed working of iron in connection with the Kai-sang mines should draw the Shansi from trade.

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and foreign mangle-leading guns sighted for 300 yards. Chiang-Hsi-fan-manufactured and mounted these breech-loading rifles, and for long ranges, and he also greatly improved the efficiency of the small field pieces employed by the troops, by causing them to be constructed of better tempered metal. Memorialist wishing to test these field pieces caused one to be fixed to the mast of a steam vessel, and fired, and found that they were far more accurate, and accurate than the kind heretofore in use. The torpedoes and other munition of war turned out by the officer in question also reflected great credit upon his skill and ingenuity. Memorialist at one time executed a model of a small steamer three feet long with water-tight compartments to prevent its sinking after a collision; and the officer in question made the requisite trigonometrical calculations and caused a steamship 90 feet long to be constructed on the same principle by a foreign firm at Shanghai, which when completed he himself navigated through very rough weather from Woosung to Chekiang. When the price of the vessel, £4,000, was handed over to the contractors, he declined to profit by the difference of the exchange, and placed to the public account the saving thus effected. He has also been in the habit of repeatedly returning anything over from the Government, which he has received from the benefit of exponents at present without employment or salary. Memorialist feels sure that Chiang Hsi-fan's qualifications, as above described, will be of the highest value in the new sphere of action to which it is requested he may now be transferred.—Sanctioned by Decree earlier issued.

LI HAN CHANG.

(N. C. Daily News.)

We referred yesterday to the rumour that the Viceroyness of the Liang Hu had been conferred upon Chang-Chih-wan, and that Li Han-chang had been summoned to the capital. The rumour, as we expected at the time, has since proved to be unfounded. Chang-Chih-wan having been appointed the successor of Mao Chang-hsi in the Presidency of the Board of War. Had it, however, been true, it would not necessarily have implied that the accusations brought against Li Han-chang were

Overland Mail.
Quarterly return of Marriages, Births, &c.
Revue des Vins et Liqueurs.
South Port Visitor.
Victorian Review.
Woollen Cloth (Samples).

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